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asture and Hayland Planting

nesota Job Sheet

USDA Soil Conservation Service
St. Paul, Minnesota

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What is pasture and hayland planting?

This practice is establishing or re-establishing long-term stands of adapted species of perennial forage plants to be used for pasture or hay. This includes selecting desired and adapted plant species or mixtures, applying needed lime and fertilizer, preparing an adequate seedbed, planting and management during establishment.

How it helps the land

Pasture and hayland planting will introduce a desired plant species to provide a better forage crop and will reduce soil erosion when land is converted from annual crops to a long-term perennial crop.

Where the practice applies

Pasture and hayland planting can be used to re-establish or renovate existing stands of perennial plants or to establish perennial plants on land being converted from other uses to pasture or hay production.

Where to get help

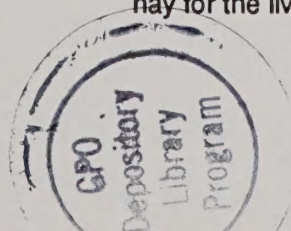
For assistance in selecting adapted plant species and establishment techniques for planting pasture and hayland on your farm contact the Soil Conservation Service office.

Requirements of this practice

Pasture and hayland planting will provide adequate vegetative growth to protect the land from soil erosion by wind or water. In addition, it will provide the livestock producer with a needed supply of forage as pasture or hay.

Applying the practice

This practice is considered to be applied when the stand is established to prevent soil erosion and begins supplying pasture and hay for the livestock operation.



16 APR 1993

27 JAN 1993

Establishment Considerations

- Select plant species that have compatible growth characteristics and that are adapted to the soils where they will be planted. Select varieties adapted to Minnesota.

Recommended seeding mixture

Field # Species	Ac. lbs/ac
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Recommended seeding mixture

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_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

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Field # Species	Ac. lbs/ac
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

- Plan to complete seeding in the spring between April 1 and May _____.

Complete late summer seeding between August 1 and August _____.

Usually seeding as early as possible within these periods is most desirable.

- Apply needed fertilizer and lime based on a soil test and recommendations from the University of Minnesota. Lime and fertilizer are the most effective when incorporated into the top 3 inches of soil. Lime should be applied 6 to 12 months ahead of seeding.

- Provide a firm smooth seedbed that is free of weeds and other vegetation. This can be done with tillage and/or labeled herbicides.

- When renovating existing pasture or hayland, begin preparation the growing season before seeding by controlling perennial weeds with appropriate herbicides.

- For tilled seedbeds, prepare a firm seedbed. Check the seedbed prior to planting by walking across the field. If your footprint is less than a half inch deep, you have a firm seedbed. You may need to use a roller or cultipacker to get a firm seedbed.

- For no-till seeding be sure you have a drill that will plant into an untilled soil surface.

- On fields being converted from annual crops manage the previous crops residue to leave some surface cover for erosion control.

- Plant seed 1/4- to 1/2-inch deep on most soils. Plant 3/4- to 1-inch deep on sandy soils. Get uniform seed distribution and good seed to soil contact. A firm soil covering the seed reduces soil moisture loss.

- Use a grass drill with depth bands on disk openers and packer wheel. A cultipacker type seeder or a standard drill used on a firm seedbed with the grass-legume seed tubes pulled out of the down spouts can also be used.

- Inoculate legumes with the proper strain of inoculant or use preinoculated seed.

- A barley or oats companion crop at 1/3 to 1/2 the normal seeding rate may be used with spring seeding to suppress weeds and reduce soil erosion. Graze or clip the companion crop when it reaches 8 to 10 inches of height or mechanically remove it in the boot stage. Do not harvest when the soil is wet.

Maintaining the practice

Established stands of pasture and hayland should be managed using the guidelines contained in Pasture and Hayland Management.

